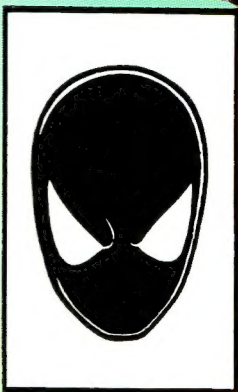
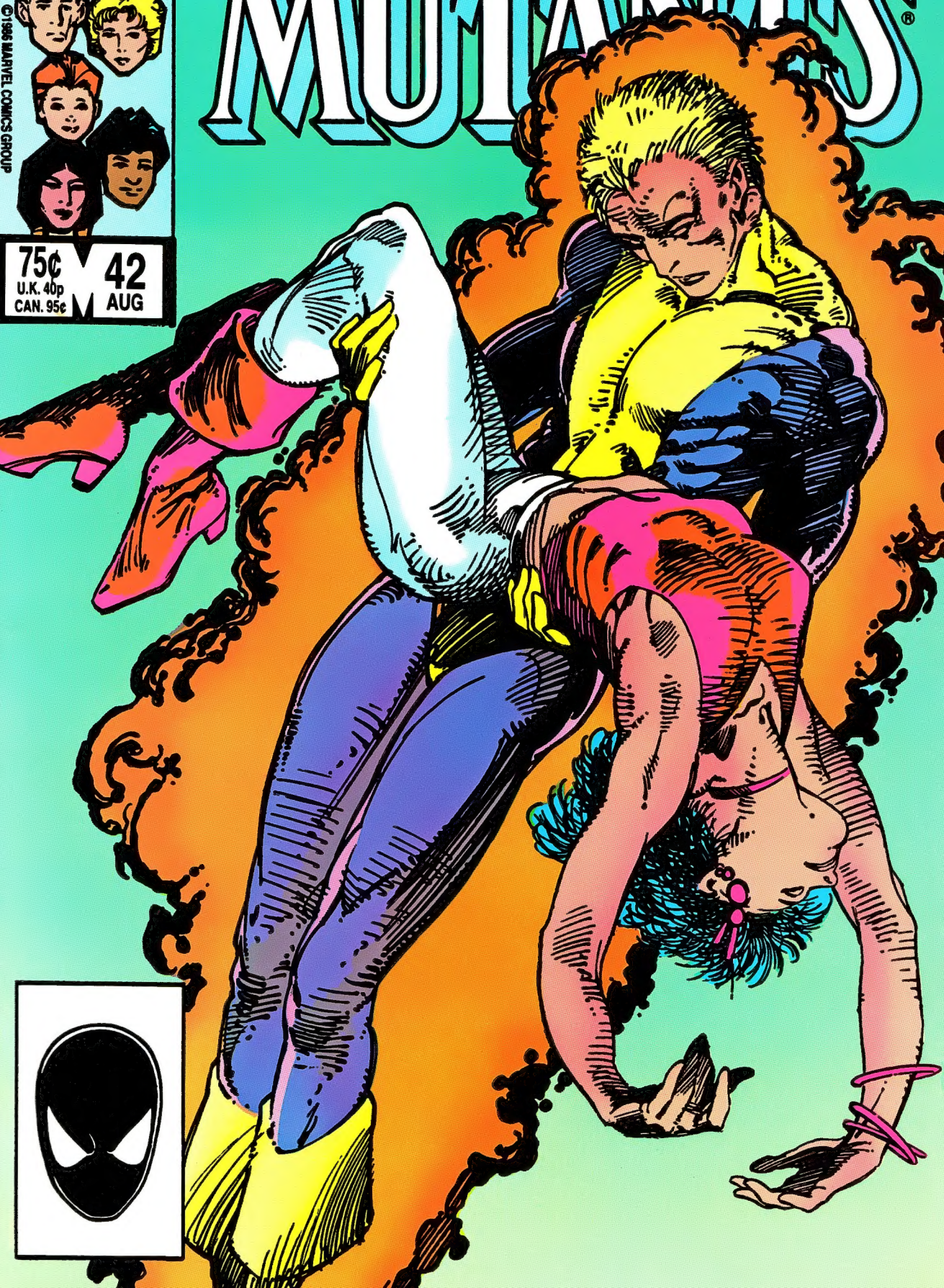




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42
AUG

THE NEW MUTANTS



STAN LEE PRESENTS



THE WORLD IS ALIEN.

THE SITUATION IS NOT.



LIVES ARE AT STAKE--

--AND ONLY CANNONBALL
AND THE NEW MUTANTS
CAN SAVE THEM!

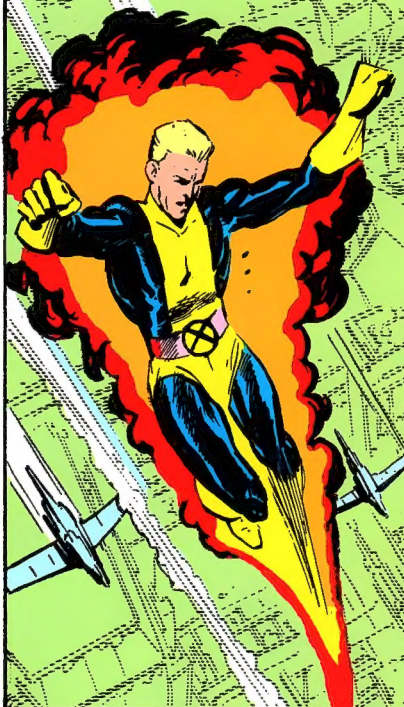
CHRIS CLAREMONT JACKSON GUICE KYLE BAKER
WRITER BREAKDOWNS FINISHES
ELAINE LEE, COLORIST TOM ORZECZOWSKI, LETTERER
ANN NOCENTI, EDITOR JIM SHOOTER, EDITOR IN CHIEF
STARRING THE NEW MUTANTS.
CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD

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LIKE HIS NAMESAKE, SAM GUTHRIE CAN SMASH THROUGH ANYTHING, AND WHEN HE USES HIS POWER, IT RENDERS HIM VIRTUALLY IMPERVIOUS TO HARM.

NAILED THAT ARMORED SUCKER.

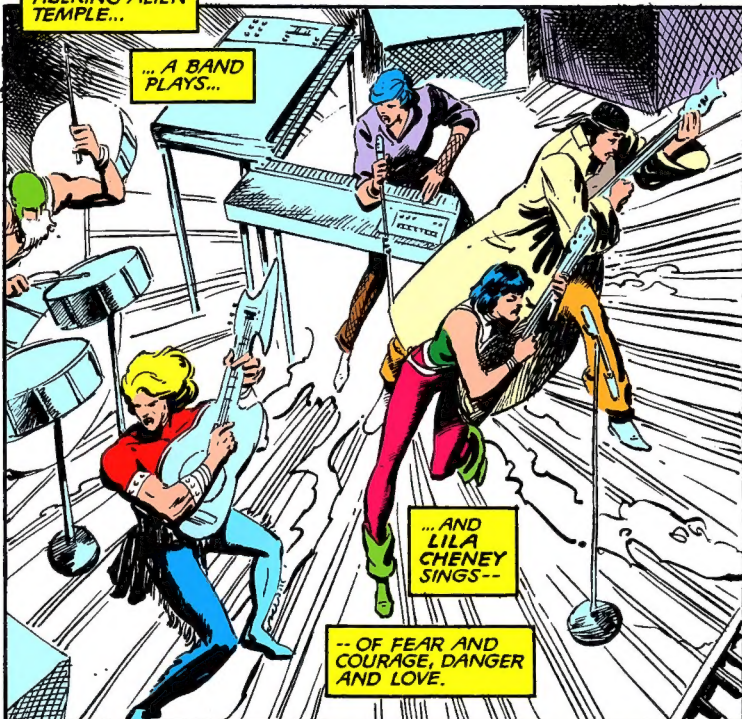
BUT THERE'S A WHOLE LOT MORE TROUBLE WHERE THEY CAME FROM.



Uh-oh. AIR FORCE ON MY TAIL. WE'RE RUNNIN' OUT OF TIME.

AND WITHIN THE HUGE, HULKING ALIEN TEMPLE...

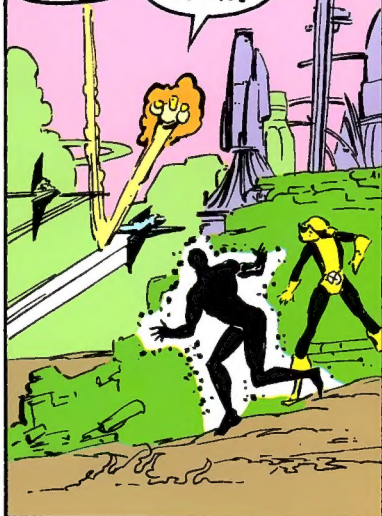
... A BAND PLAYS...



... AND LILA CHENEY SINGS--

-- OF FEAR AND COURAGE, DANGER AND LOVE.

SUNSPOT! MAGMA!! THESE CREEPS ARE YOURS!



ROBERTO DaCOSTA IS THE YOUNGEST OF THE TEAM, AND NEARLY THE SMALLEST.

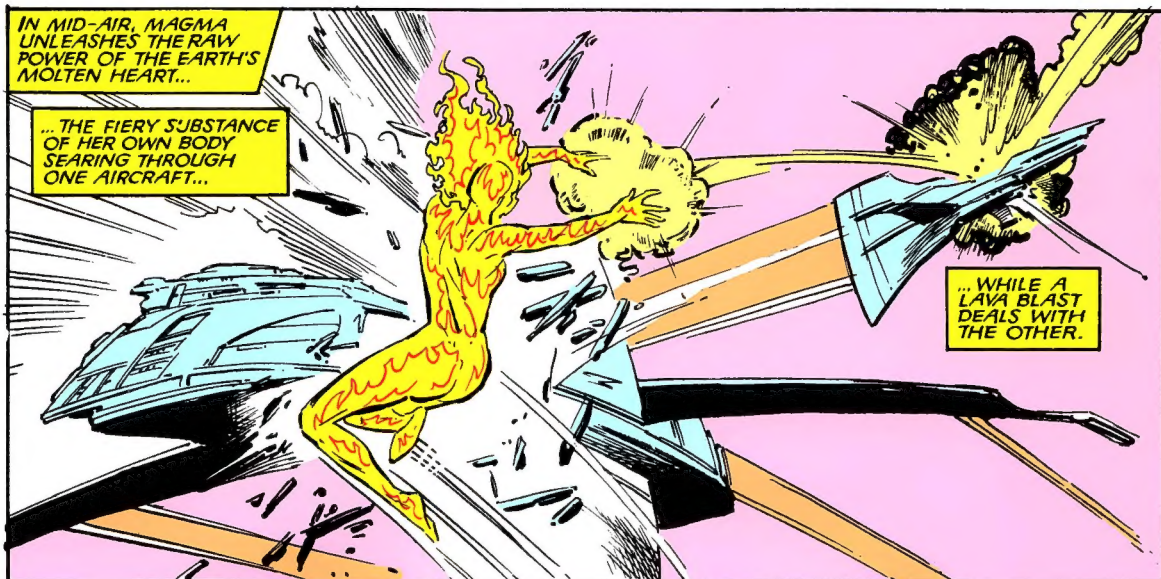


BUT, AS SUNSPOT, HIS SOLAR-CHARGED STRENGTH DEFIES DESCRIPTION.

HE CAN LIFT WHOLE HOUSES.



SO, TOSSING AMARA AQUILLA HIGH INTO THE AIR IS NOTHING.



IN MID-AIR, MAGMA UNLEASHES THE RAW POWER OF THE EARTH'S MOLTEN HEART...

... THE FIERY SUBSTANCE OF HER OWN BODY SEARING THROUGH ONE AIRCRAFT...

... WHILE A LAVA BLAST DEALS WITH THE OTHER.



AND THE MUSIC BUILDS...

... STACCATO IMAGES CUTTING FROM BAND TO BATTLE TO BAND...

... MATCHING TEMPOS WITH THE SONG--

--SHOTS OF MUTANTS, LILA, THE BAND...

... AND CHARASULLA, LORD OF THE FREEBOOTING VRAKANIN, MOVING IN FOR THE KILL.



THAT'S THE LAST PLANE.



CUTTING THINGS A TRIFLE CLOSE FOR COMFORT, ARE WE NOT?

HEY, SWEET-HEART, YOU THINK AH'D EVER LET YOU DOWN?



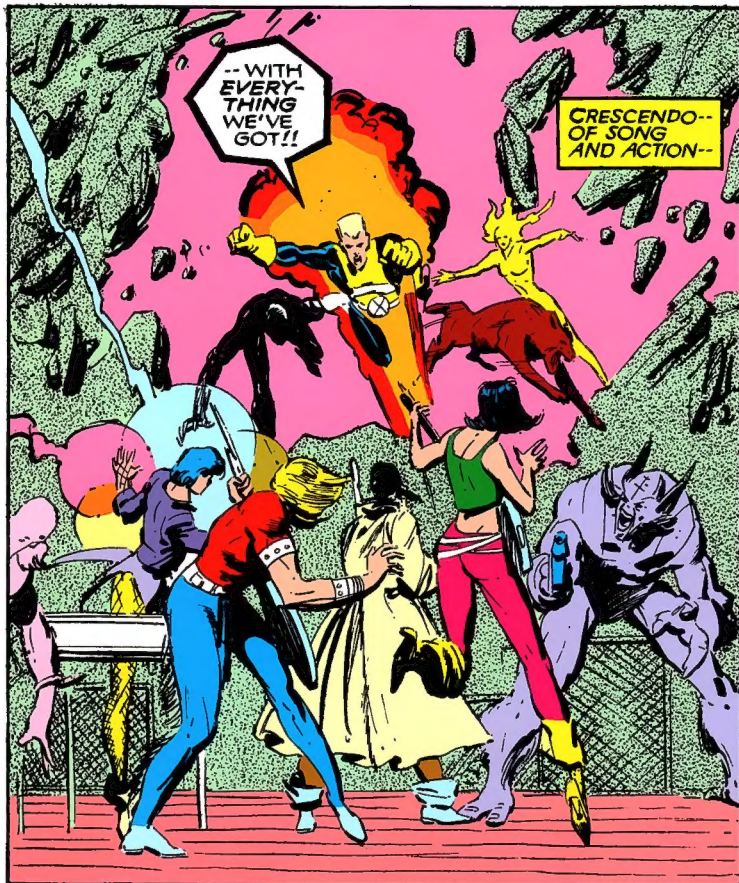
HIS FORCES HAVE BEEN ROUTED.

BUT HE IS DETERMINED...



... THAT LILA WILL NOT LIVE TO ENJOY HER TRIUMPH.

LET'S HIT THE TEMPLE WALL, TEAM--





BUT THEN, TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE...

SAMUEL ZACHERY GUTHRIE!?!

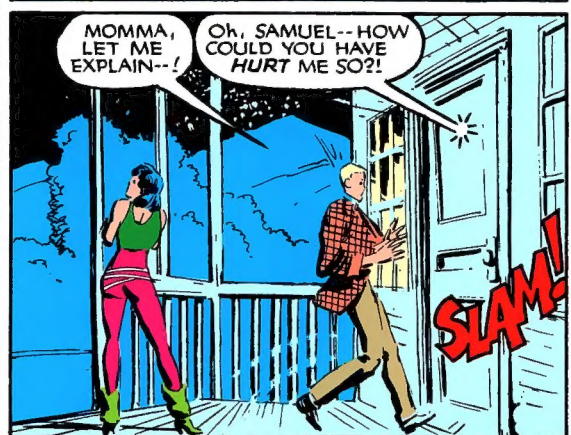
Huh? WHO?!



MOMMA?!?

WHO IS THIS-- PERSON?!

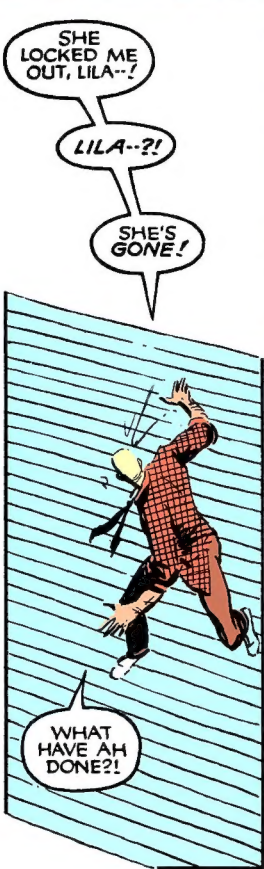
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



MOMMA, LET ME EXPLAIN--!

Oh, SAMUEL-- HOW COULD YOU HAVE HURT ME SO?!

SLAM!



SHE LOCKED ME OUT, LILA--!

LILA--?!

SHE'S GONE!?

WHAT HAVE AH DONE?!



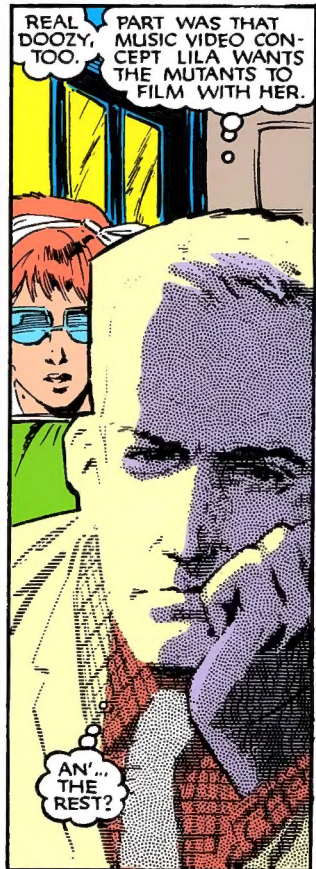
Whua--?!?!

BUS!

CALM DOWN, BOY. TAKE IT EASY.

AH--M ON A BUS.

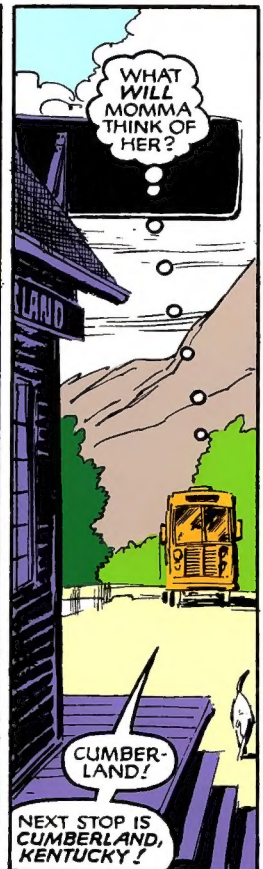
AH-- IT WAS A DREAM!



REAL DOOZY, TOO.

PART WAS THAT MUSIC VIDEO CONCEPT LILA WANTS THE MUTANTS TO FILM WITH HER.

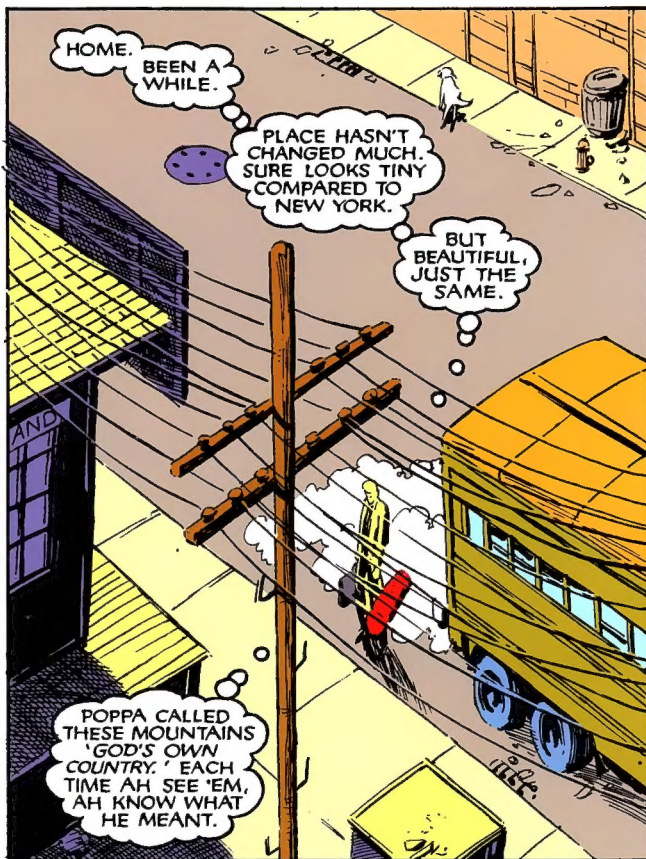
AN'... THE REST?



WHAT WILL MOMMA THINK OF HER?

CUMBERLAND!

NEXT STOP IS CUMBERLAND, KENTUCKY!

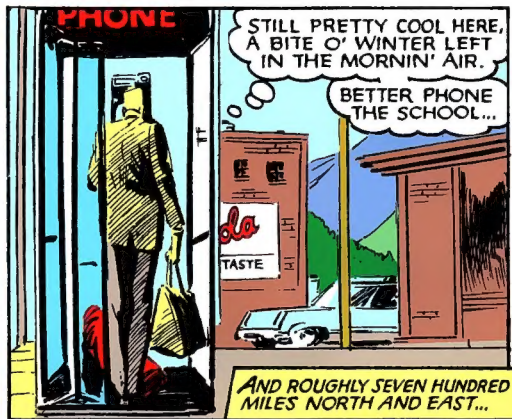


HOME.
BEEN A
WHILE.

PLACE HASN'T
CHANGED MUCH.
SURE LOOKS TINY
COMPARED TO
NEW YORK.

BUT
BEAUTIFUL,
JUST THE
SAME.

POPPA CALLED
THESE MOUNTAINS
'GOD'S OWN
COUNTRY.' EACH
TIME AH SEE 'EM,
AH KNOW WHAT
HE MEANT.

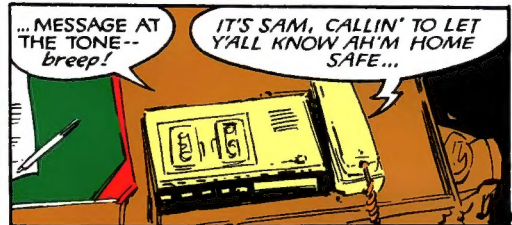
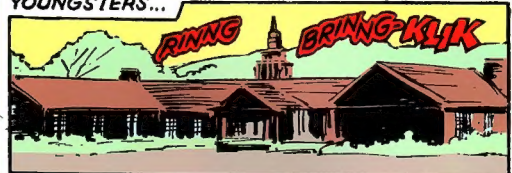


STILL PRETTY COOL HERE,
A BITE O' WINTER LEFT
IN THE MORNIN' AIR.

BETTER PHONE
THE SCHOOL...

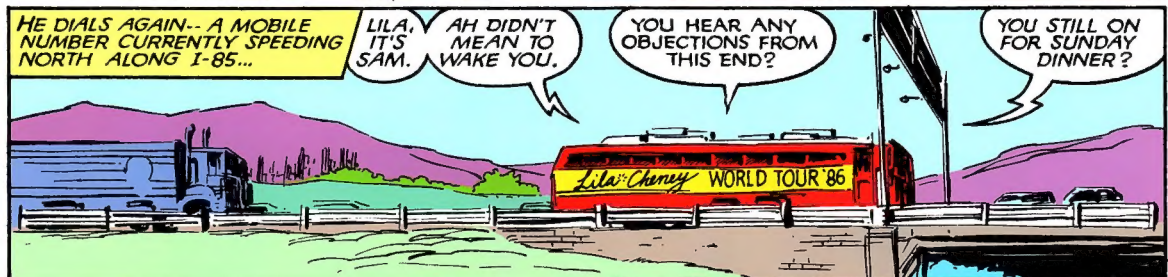
AND ROUGHLY SEVEN HUNDRED
MILES NORTH AND EAST...

...AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S HOME FOR GIFTED
YOUNGSTERS...



...MESSAGE AT
THE TONE--
breep!

IT'S SAM, CALLIN' TO LET
Y'ALL KNOW AH'M HOME
SAFE...



HE DIALS AGAIN-- A MOBILE
NUMBER CURRENTLY SPEEDING
NORTH ALONG I-85...

LILA,
IT'S
SAM.

AH DIDN'T
MEAN TO
WAKE YOU.

YOU HEAR ANY
OBJECTIONS FROM
THIS END?

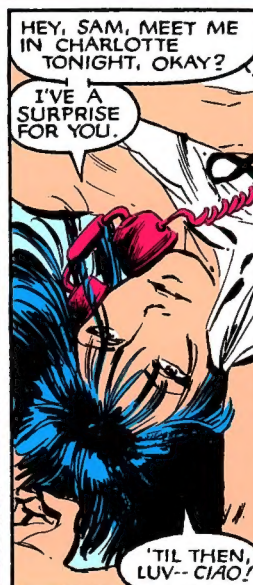
YOU STILL ON
FOR SUNDAY
DINNER?



WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD--
THOUGH I CONFESS, I'M A BIT NERVOUS.

NEVER BEEN TO MEET A
BEAU'S FOLKS BEFORE.

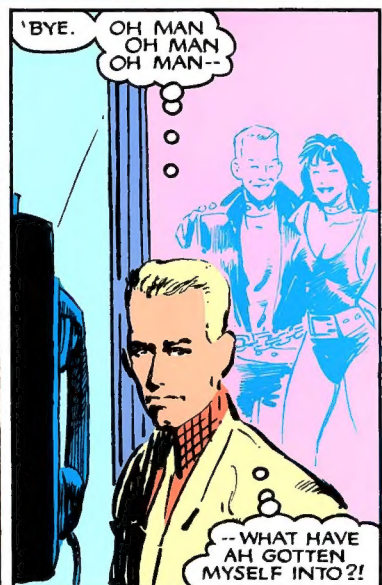
YOU FIGURE
THIS MEANS
WE'RE SERIOUS?



HEY, SAM, MEET ME
IN CHARLOTTE
TONIGHT, OKAY?

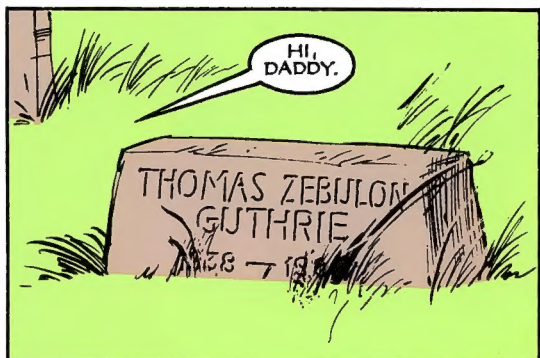
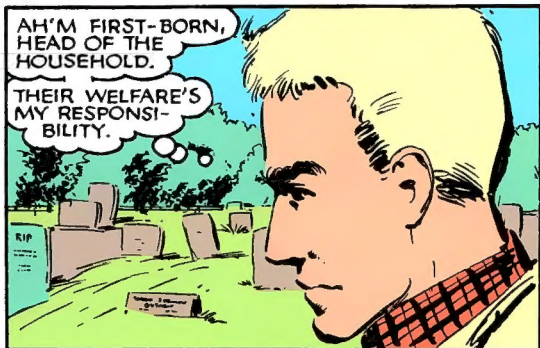
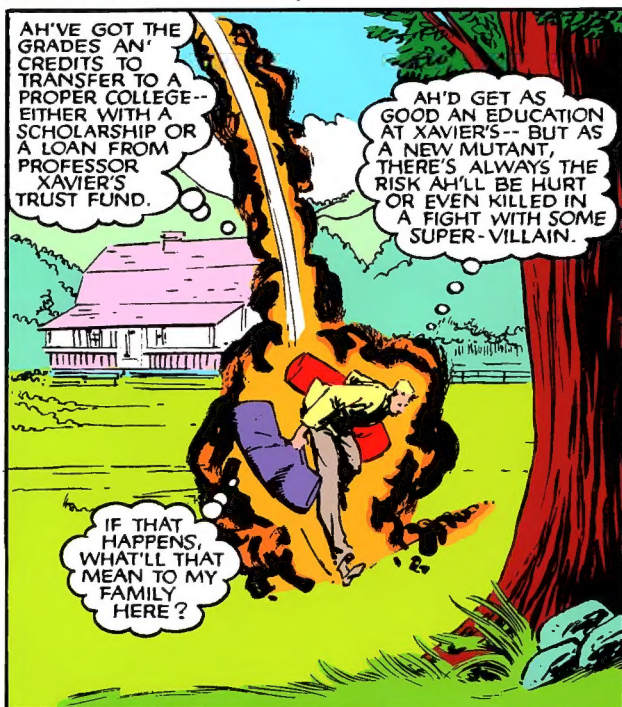
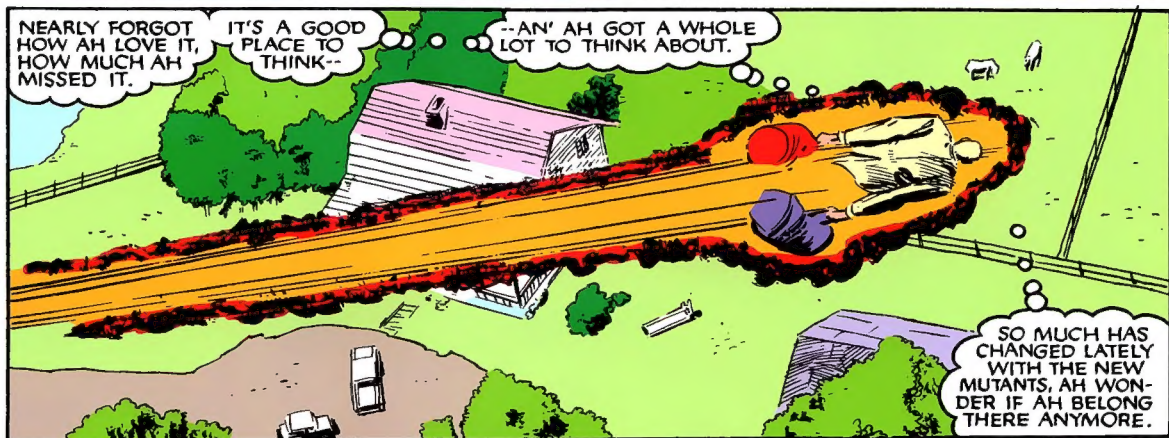
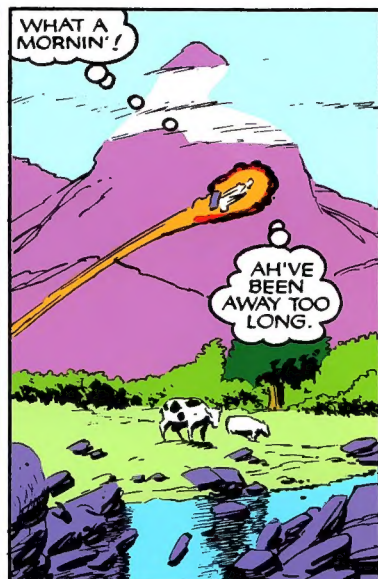
I'VE A
SURPRISE
FOR YOU.

'TIL THEN,
LUV-- CIAO!



'BYE. OH MAN
OH MAN
OH MAN--

--WHAT HAVE
AH GOTTEN
MYSELF INTO?!



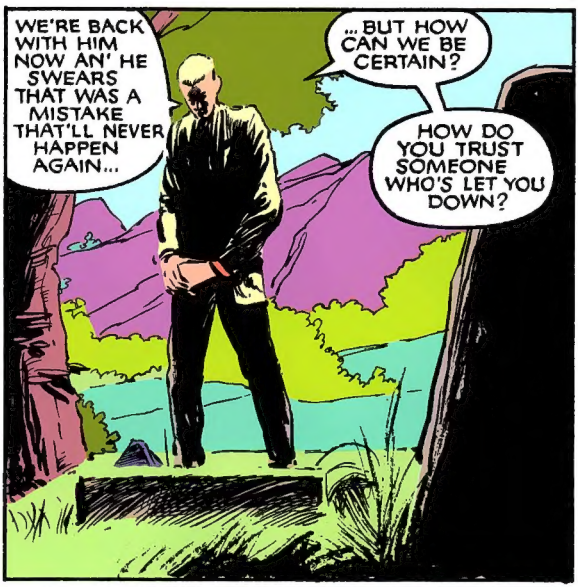


SOME O' THE HEADSTONES ARE OLDER THAN THE COUNTRY-- FAMILY GOES BACK THAT FAR. GUTHRIE LAND-- PAID FOR WITH SWEAT AN' TOIL AN' TEARS... AN' BLOOD.

WE AIN'T TALKED IN A WHILE, SIR.

AH'M DOIN' WELL IN SCHOOL. BUT WE'VE GOT A NEW HEADMASTER, FELLA NAMED **MAGNETO**. HE USED TO BE A CRIMINAL -- BUT PROFESSOR XAVIER SAID HE'S A GOOD MAN AT HEART AND HAD REFORMED.

LATELY, THOUGH, WHEN THINGS GOT REAL TOUGH FOR US-- HIS STUDENTS-- HE DIDN'T HANG IN WITH US. HE FOLDED, DADDY, SORT'A GAVE UP.



WE'RE BACK WITH HIM NOW AN' HE SWEARS THAT WAS A MISTAKE THAT'LL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN...

... BUT HOW CAN WE BE CERTAIN?

HOW DO YOU TRUST SOMEONE WHO'S LET YOU DOWN?



AN' THEN, THERE'S MY GIRL.

YEAH-- AH HAVE A GIRL, AIN'T THAT A HOOT?

SHE'S SO PRETTY AN' THE WAY SHE SINGS, ANGELS COULDN'T DO BETTER.



SHE'S LIKE NO ONE AH'VE EVER KNOWN, AH CAN'T STOP THINKIN' ABOUT HER AN' AH FEEL SO GOOD WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER--!

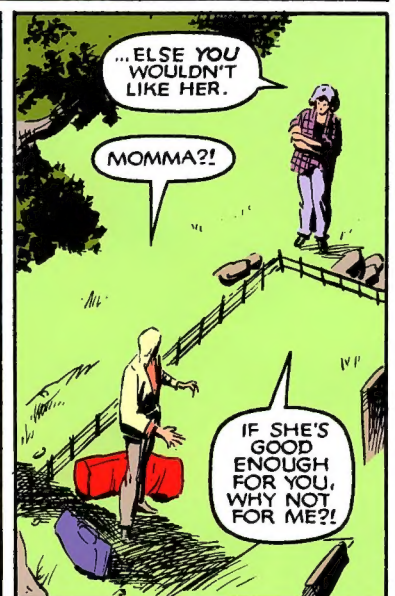
BUT SHE'S NOT FROM AROUND HERE.



THIS IS A DIFFERENT PLACE WITH DIFFERENT WAYS-- SUPPOSE SHE HATES IT?

SUPPOSE MOMMA DOESN'T LIKE HER?!

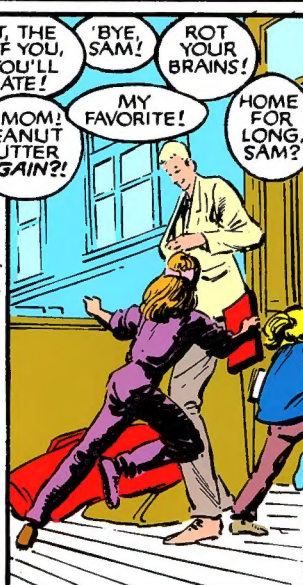
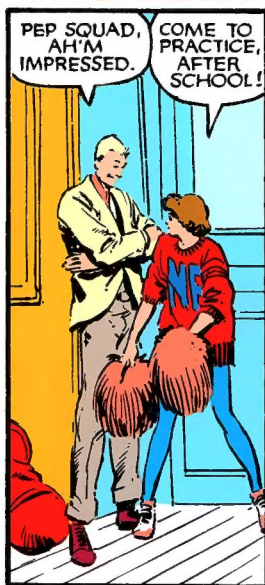
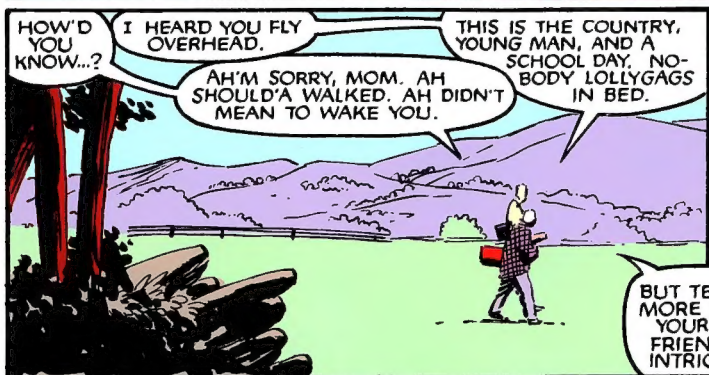
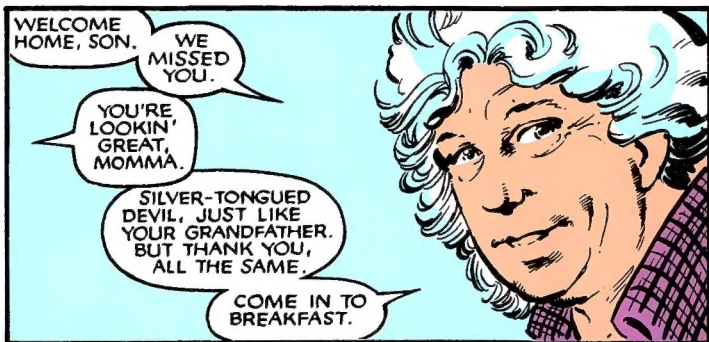
SHE MUST BE A NICE GIRL, SAMUEL...

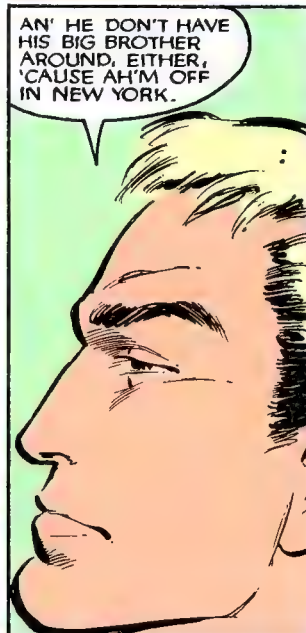
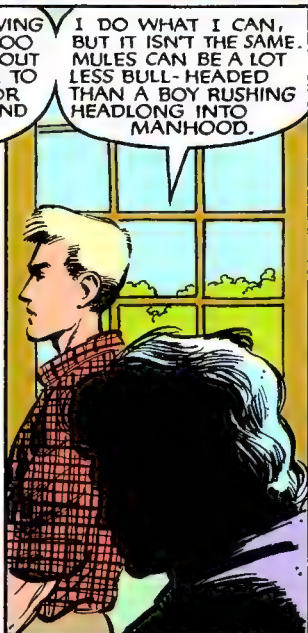
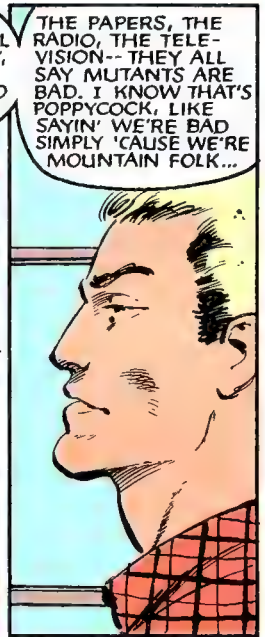
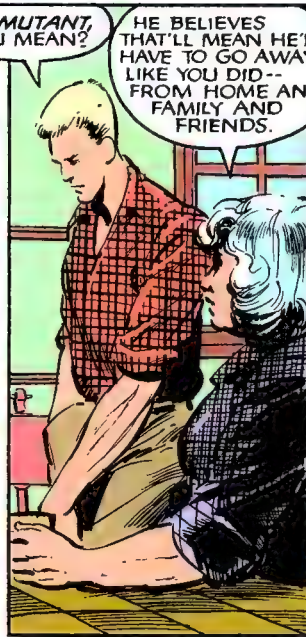
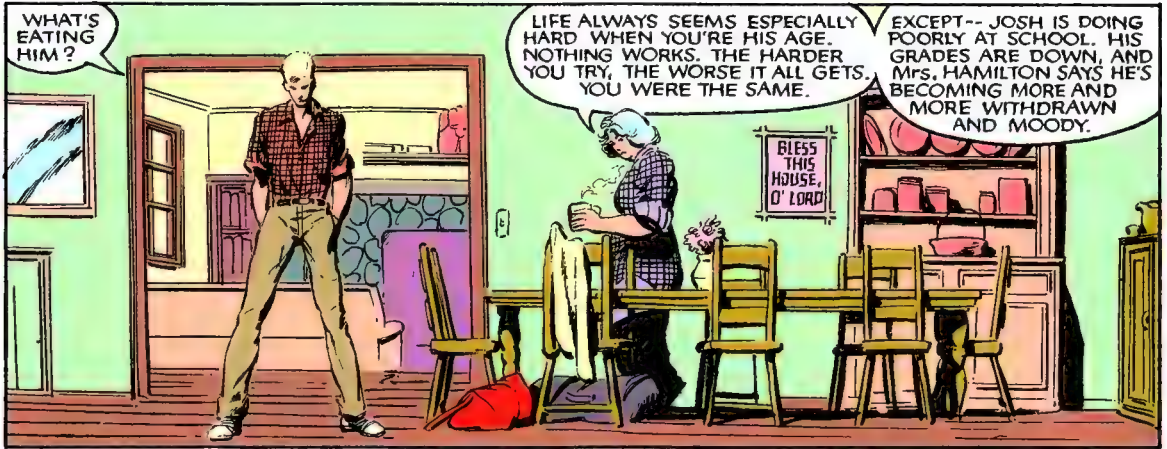


...ELSE YOU WOULDN'T LIKE HER.

MOMMA?!

IF SHE'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU, WHY NOT FOR ME?!





CHARLOTTE,
NORTH CAROLINA.

THERE'S THE
COLISEUM.

CONCERT'S
JUST LETTIN'
OUT.

WISH AH
COULD'A
SEEN IT.

HECK-- AH
WISH AH
COULD SEE
'EM ALL!

CREW'S LOADING
LILA'S GEAR FOR
THE NEXT GIG.

AH DUNNO IF AH
COULD HACK THAT
KIND'A WANDERING.

NO ROOTS,
NEVER A
PLACE TO
CALL HOME.

BUT LILA
LOVES IT.

WHAT
A LIFE--
GYPSIES
HAVE IT
EASIER.

AH'M GLAD THINGS
ARE TURNIN' OUT
OKAY FOR ALI. AS
DAZZLER, SHE'D
FALLEN ON SOME
PRETTY ROUGH
TIMES, TILL LILA
BROUGHT HER
INTO THE BAND.

NOW, HER MUTANT POWERS
PROVIDE THE SHOW'S
LIGHTING EFFECTS.

AH REALLY HOPE,
THOUGH, THAT
SOMEDAY SHE'LL
BE ABLE TO MAKE
IT ON HER OWN.

STILL
DRINKIN' IN
THE APPLAUSE,
LILA?

HI, SAM!
LONG TIME,
NO SEE!

ALISON!
YOU CHANGED
YOUR HAIR!

I'M IN
DISGUISE.

LOOKIN'
GOOD

STILL
DAZZLIN' THE
AUDIENCES?

WHENEVER
LILA LETS ME.

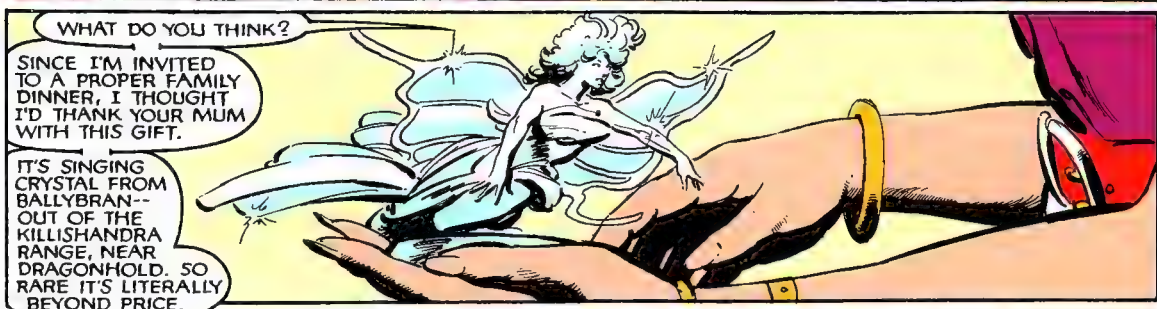
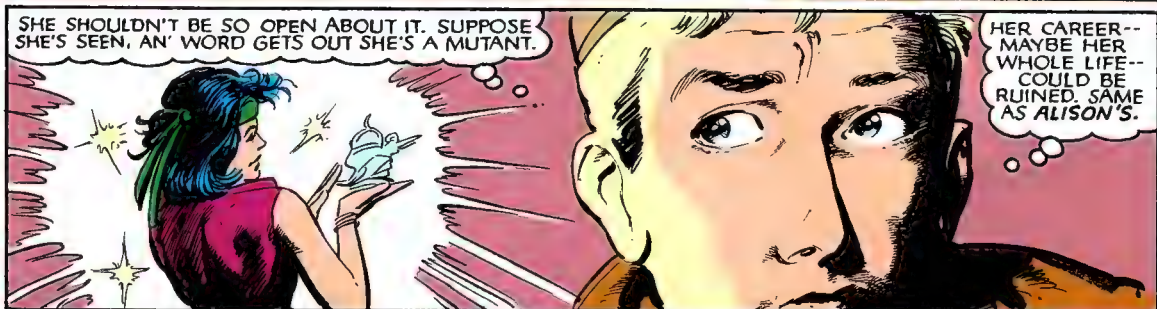
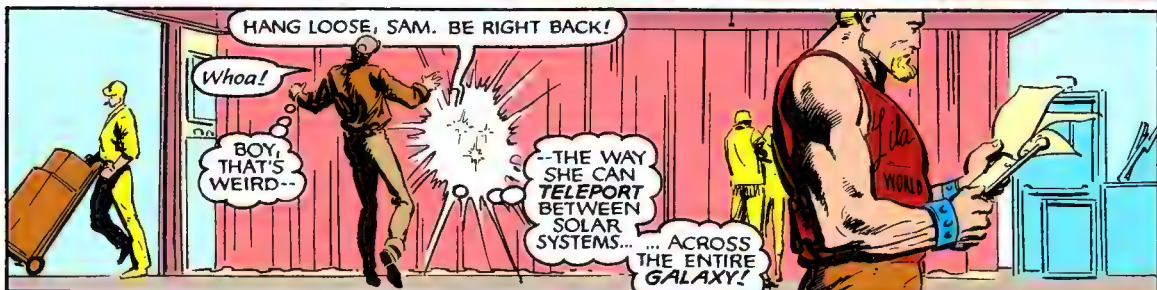
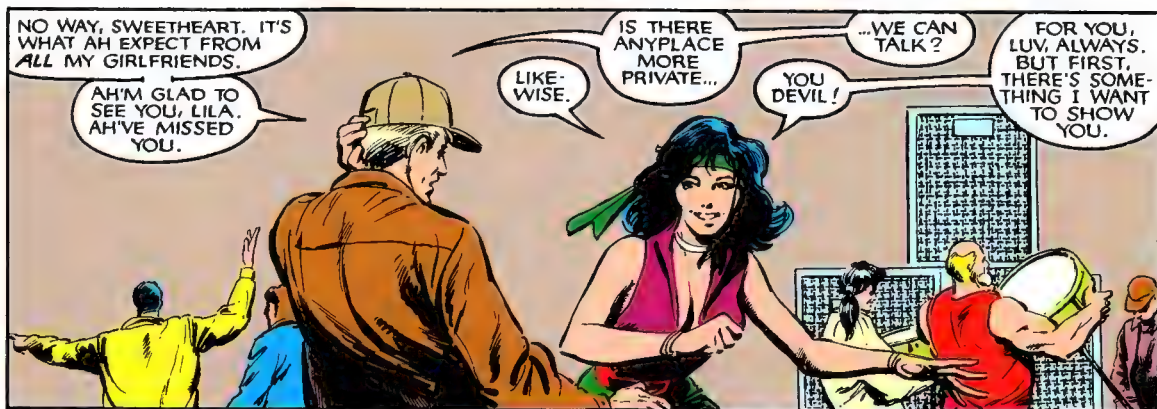
YOU
BETCHA--

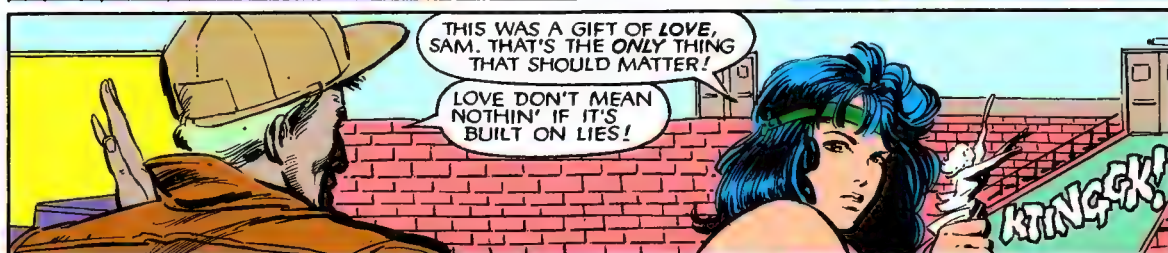
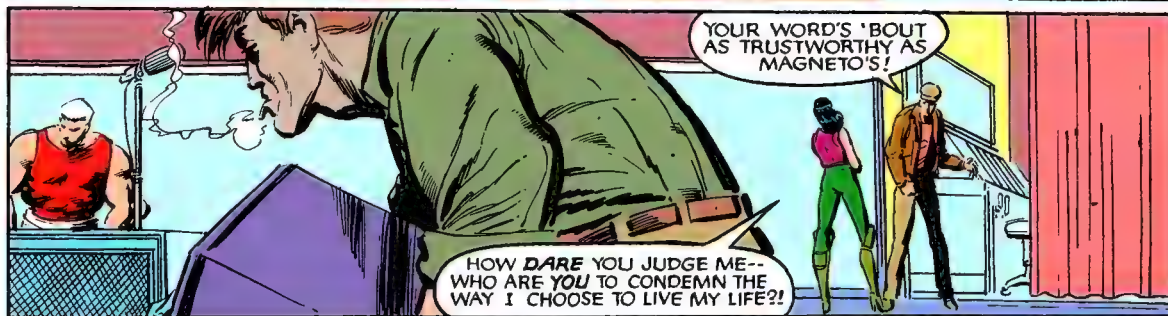
WOW!

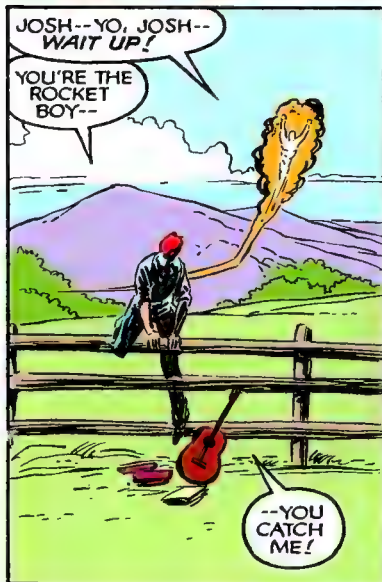
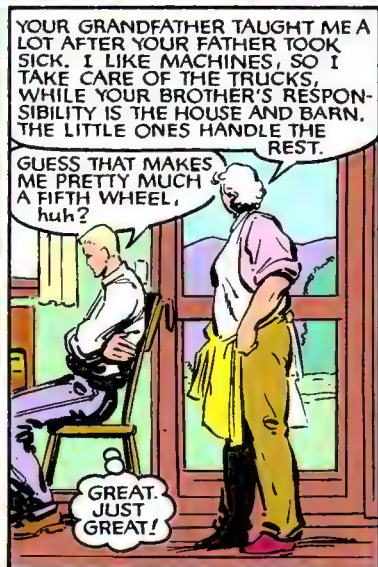
TOOK MY
BREATH
AWAY, THAT
DID.

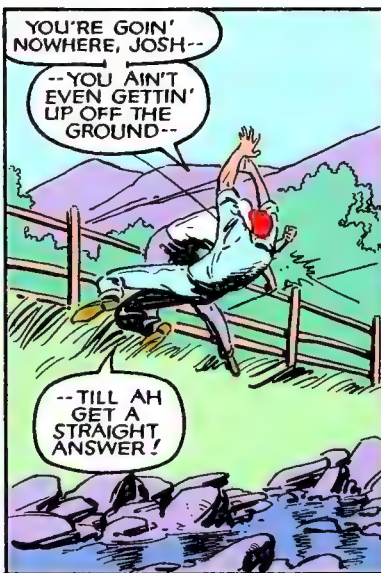
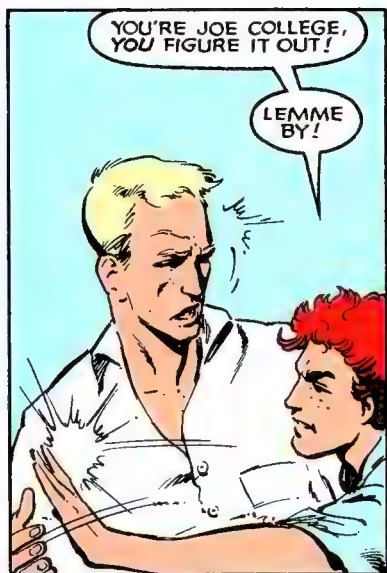
MINE,
TOO.

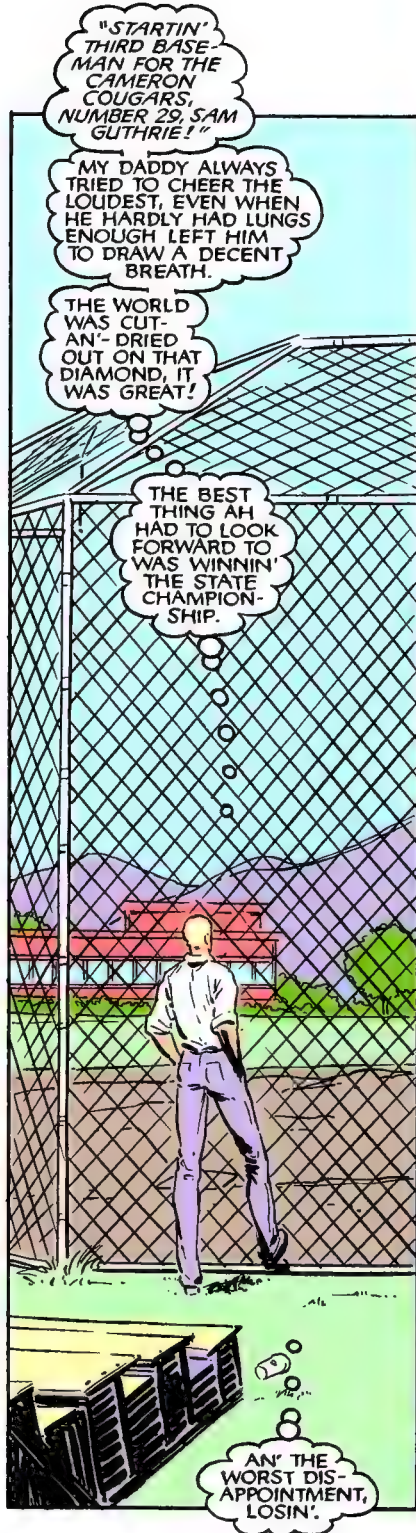
DIDN'T MEAN
TO GET SO
CARRIED
AWAY. HOPE
YOU WON'T
TAKE IT, ah,
PERSONALLY.











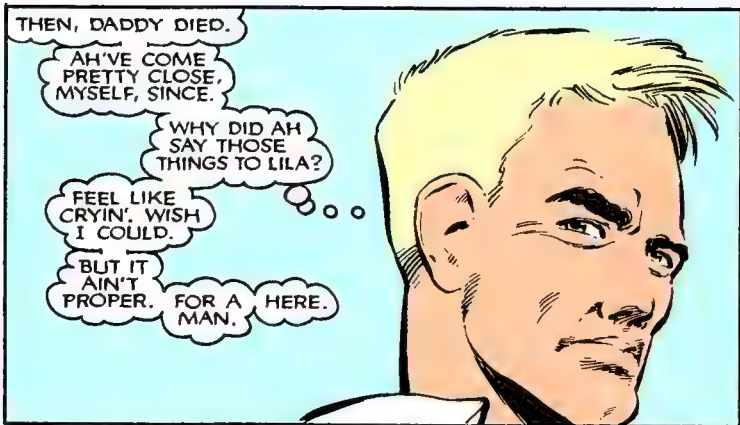
"STARTIN' THIRD BASE-MAN FOR THE CAMERON COUGARS, NUMBER 29, SAM GUTHRIE!"

MY DADDY ALWAYS TRIED TO CHEER THE LOUDEST, EVEN WHEN HE HARDLY HAD LUNGS ENOUGH LEFT HIM TO DRAW A DECENT BREATH.

THE WORLD WAS CUT-AN'- DRIED OUT ON THAT DIAMOND. IT WAS GREAT!

THE BEST THING AH HAD TO LOOK FORWARD TO WAS WINNIN' THE STATE CHAMPION-SHIP.

AN' THE WORST DIS-APPOINTMENT, LOSIN'.



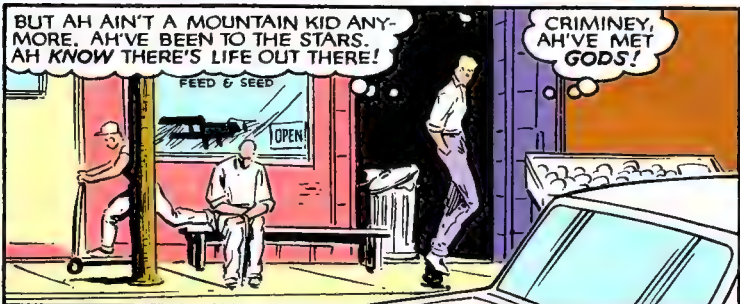
THEN, DADDY DIED.

AH'VE COME PRETTY CLOSE, MYSELF, SINCE.

WHY DID AH SAY THOSE THINGS TO LILA?

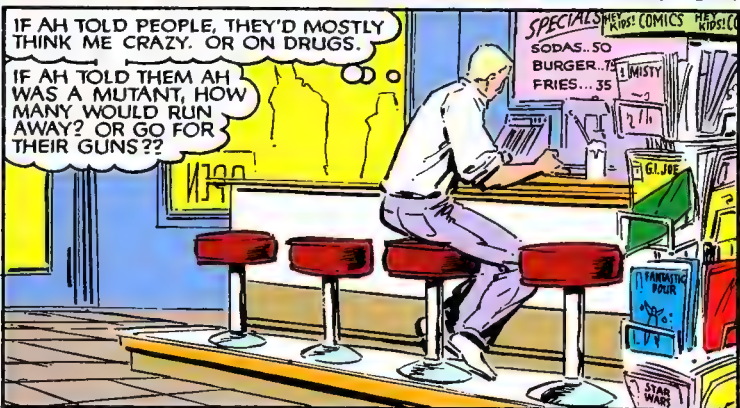
FEEL LIKE CRYIN'. WISH I COULD.

BUT IT AIN'T PROPER. FOR A MAN. HERE.



BUT AH AIN'T A MOUNTAIN KID ANY-MORE. AH'VE BEEN TO THE STARS. AH KNOW THERE'S LIFE OUT THERE!

CRIMINEY, AH'VE MET GODS!



IF AH TOLD PEOPLE, THEY'D MOSTLY THINK ME CRAZY. OR ON DRUGS.

IF AH TOLD THEM AH WAS A MUTANT, HOW MANY WOULD RUN AWAY? OR GO FOR THEIR GUNS??



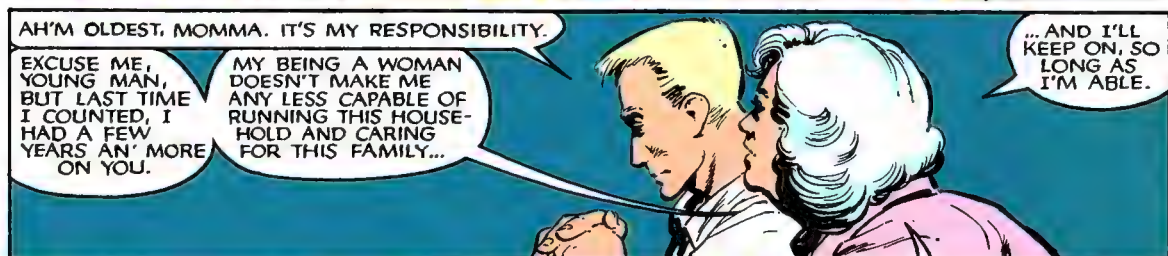
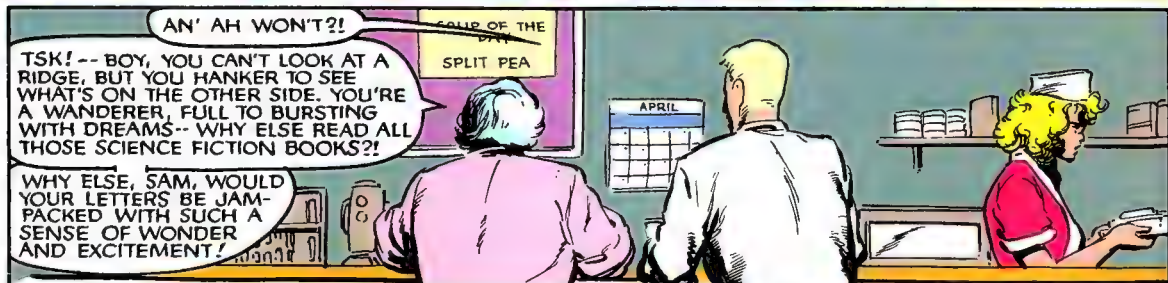
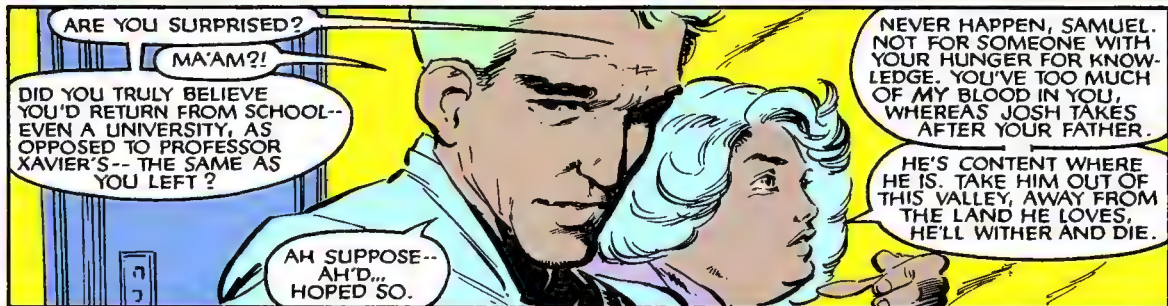
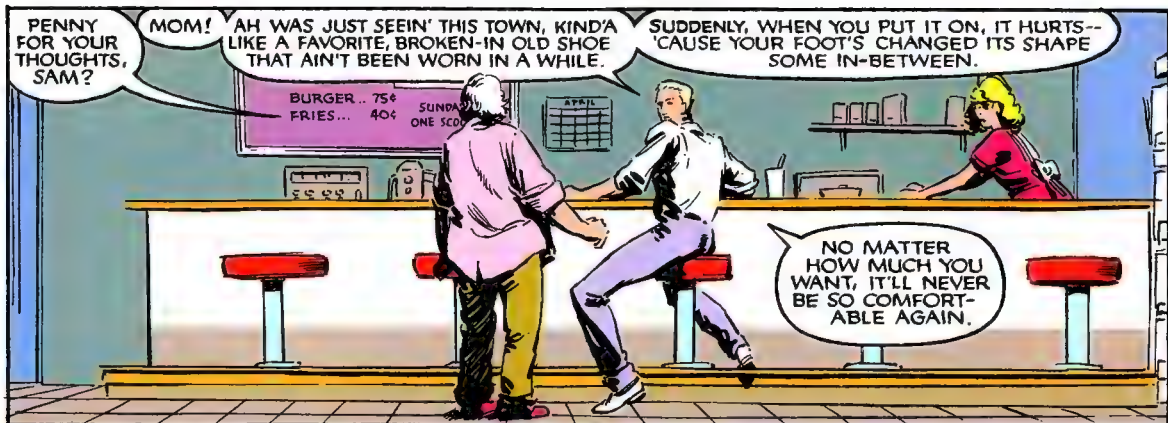
KIDS FROM SCHOOL-- MUST BE LUNCH-HOUR.

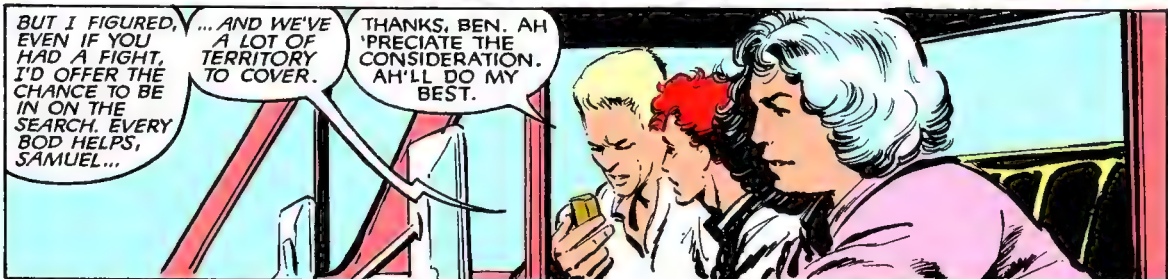
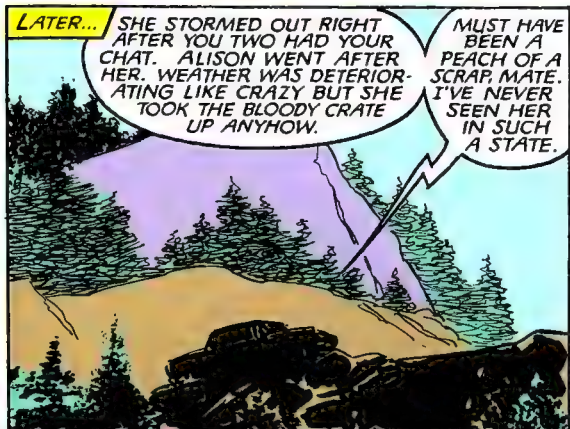
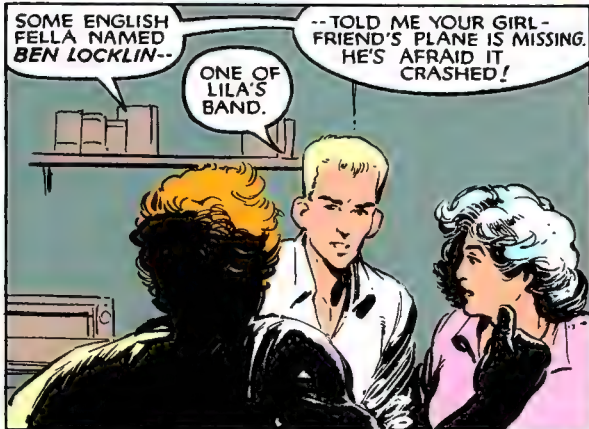
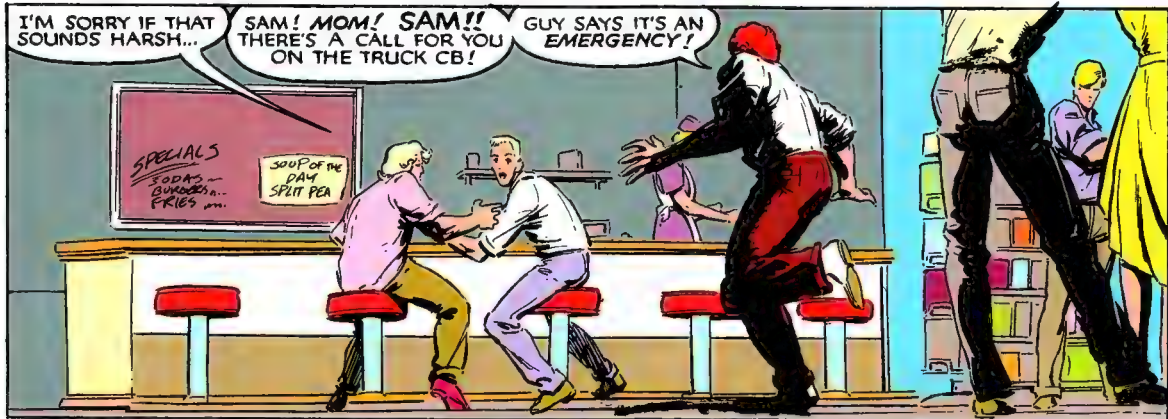
JOSH HAS A LOT MORE FRIENDS THAN AH EVER DID.



ONLY PROPER-- HE'S BLESSED WITH THE LOOKS...

...AN' A VOICE TO MATCH.





NOSIRREE!

THIS IS--
FANTASTIC!

AIN'T NEVER
FLOWN
BEFORE,
Y'KNOW--
NOT EVEN
IN AN AIR-
PLANE.

MOMENTS
LIKE THIS, JOSH,
AH THANK THE
LORD FOR THIS
GIFT TO ME. AH
DON'T REALLY
MIND THAT
PEOPLE ARE
PARANOID ABOUT
MUTANTS-- AH
KIND'A FEEL
SORRY FOR 'EM--
CAUSE AH CAN
FLY, AN' THOSE
POOR SOULS
CAN'T.

SO... MAYBE...
IF AH'M A
MUTANT, TOO,
IT WON'T BE
ALL THAT
AWFUL?

COULD
BE.

BUT THIS
ISN'T A
JOYRIDE, BRO'.
WE'RE UP
HERE ON
BUSINESS--
KEEP YOUR
EYES
PEELED.

FOR MOST OF THE
DAY, THEY CRISS-
CROSS THE
MOUNTAINS ALONG
LILA'S FILED
ROUTE, SKIMMING
THE RIDGES AT
TREE-TOP HEIGHT
AND SWOOPING
HEADLONG INTO
THE DEEP, TWISTING
RAVINES.

THEN, TOWARDS
SUNSET...

Oh, MY
LORD.

WHAT A
MESS.

WATCH YOUR STEP. THIS
SLOPE'S NONE TOO STABLE.

CABIN'S BURIED. IF AH TRY TO SMASH
THROUGH AS' CANNONBALL, AH'LL BRING THE
WHOLE MOUNTAIN DOWN ON TOP OF US.

AH'M LOTS
SMALLER'N
YOU, SAM.

AH'LL TRY AN'
WRIGGLE MY WAY...
...THROUGH
THE TREES.

BE
CAREFUL,
JOSH.

AH DON'T WANT TO
LOSE YOU, TOO!

LILA WAS UPSET,
'CAUSE OF WHAT
AH SAID.

THIS
IS MY
FAULT.

HEY,
SAM--

BE OKAY,
DARLIN'--
PLEASE!

--AH SEE
A LIGHT!

AH'M JOSH GUTHRIE-- WHO'S THERE?!
 ALISON BLAIRE! I'M ALL RIGHT, BUT LILA AND CONAL DURAN WERE HURT IN THE CRASH!
 JOSH, I... I'M DAZZLER-- THE MUTANT SINGER. I COULD CUT A TUNNEL WITH MY LASER POWERS, BUT I'M ALMOST TOTALLY DRAINED OF ENERGY. I NEED SOUND-- MUSIC'S BEST-- TO RECHARGE.
 AH BARELY MADE IT THROUGH THIS MAZE. AIN'T NO WAY WE CAN DRAG INJURED PEOPLE OUT. AN' MY BROTHER, SAM, DON'T DARE PUNCH A TUNNEL DOWN TO YOU, HE'LL TRIGGER AN AVALANCHE.
 EITHER OF YOU HAVE A RADIO?

NO, MA'AM. BUT...
 ...AH SING SOME.
 WILL THAT DO?
 SAM HAD HEARD HIS BROTHER IN TOWN...

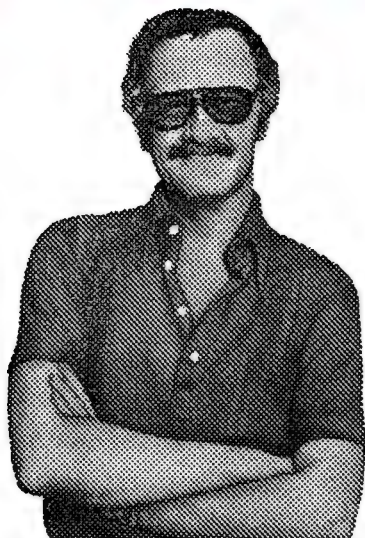
... BUT THAT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE WONDROUS, IMPOSSIBLE BEAUTY THAT NOW FILLS THE AIR.
 IT'S LIKE, HE'S A ONE-MAN CHOIR.
 ALI'S LASER BLAST-- HE'S DONE IT!
 WAY TO GO, JOSH!

LI'L BROTHER, THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL!
 HAPPENED WHEN MY VOICE CHANGED AN' ALL.
 MOMMA FIGURES IT'S MY SPECIAL GIFT, LIKE YOUR FLYIN'.

YOU ASK ME, YOU GOT THE BETTER OF THE DEAL.
 WHAT ABOUT THE LITTLE ONES, SAM? WHAT POWERS WILL THEY GET?!
 WISH AH KNEW.
 ALI-- HOW'S LILA?!!
 DO YOU CARE, SAM?
 HOW COULD YOU BE SO ROTTEN, AFTER WHAT SHE WENT THROUGH TO GET THAT GIFT FOR YOUR MOTHER?!!

I WISH I HAD SOMEONE TO CARE-- AND DO-- AS MUCH FOR ME.
 IT TOOK LILA A MONTH TO MINE THE CRYSTAL-- AND LONGER STILL TO CARVE IT. THE SLIGHTEST MISTAKE ANYWHERE ALONG THE WAY WOULD HAVE SHATTERED IT TO DUST.
 SHE MADE THAT FIGURE?! SHE DIDN'T STEAL IT?!!
 ARE YOU KIDDING?! SAM, HOW COULD YOU EVEN THINK SUCH A THING?!

BULLPEN BULLETINS



STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX...

... will be appearing in *Marvel Age* every month beginning with issue #41, which is on sale now. Before I say more about that, first let me tell you a little story...

ONCE UPON A TIME...

... I was at a party at Stan's house way up in the Hollywood Hills. It was getting late, the festivities were winding down, and we found ourselves standing on his front porch looking down at the lights of Los Angeles, chatting about the biz. Suddenly, I had one of those strange feelings—I don't know what to call it—a Profound Revelation? A Meaningful Insight? A Moment of Awareness? Anyway, after a brief silence, I said, "Stan, I can't believe that I... am here at Stan Lee's house... just hanging out! I mean, you've been one of my heroes since I was twelve!" Well, that embarrassed him a little, I think. He thanked me, and added that sometimes he couldn't believe all of the great things that'd happened to him in the last twenty-five years. I guess he'd never expected to become a comics legend, creative head of a major animation studio, and an inspiration to a generation.

Steve Englehart once said, "... in many ways, Stan is the father of us all," meaning the comics writers of today. He's right. Everyone at Marvel Comics, everyone in comics owes Stan a debt of gratitude that cannot be repaid. With all due respect to Steve Ditko, Jack Kirby and the many other outstanding artists/co-creators with whom Stan worked in the sixties creating and building the Marvel Universe, I submit that without Stan Lee there would be no Marvel Comics today. Very likely, there would be no comics. Thanks largely to Stan, we have a place to bring forth our own imaginings, a firm foundation upon which to build, and, oh, by the way, he showed us *how*. Wow.

THEREFORE, I RECOMMEND...

... that you start picking up *Marvel Age* if you haven't already, and check out Stan's Soapbox. It's the same, famous no-holds-barred type of column that used to appear on this page years ago—words of wisdom, funny stuff, Pronouncements of Great Import to the Entire Comics Community, and who knows, maybe recipes. So pay attention, will ya.

Marvel Age can be purchased at comic shops or via subscription. There's a subscription ad elsewhere in this book.

Stan is still *the Man*!

THE 1986 OVERSTREET PRICE GUIDE...

... celebrates Marvel Comics' 25th Anniversary with a special introduction by Stan Lee (him again!) and a special, somewhat more longwinded introduction by *moi*. It's the authority on back-issue prices of all comics and it can be found at comic shops and bookstores everywhere. \$10.95 per copy. No serious collector can afford to be without it.

OUT OF SPACE...

... so I'll have to wait till next month to reveal more about the New Universe.

Strive on!

Shooter

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECKLIST

- ☐ DAKOTA NORTH #2—More high-flying adventures of Marvel's fearless female detective!
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #233—The unbelievable conclusion to the DD/Kingpin conflict!
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #42
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #17—Spidey disappears!
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #11—With Nick Fury!
- ☐ SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #12—The double-sized conclusion, featuring a battle you'll never forget!
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #37
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #279—Spidey's still missing!
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #320—The final fate of the Scourge!
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #78
- ☐ VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #11
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #9—The real story about what happened in issues #148–169!
- ☐ POWER PACK #25—The double-sized finale to the Snark Wars!
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #9—Introducing everyone from Molecule Man to Phastos!
- ☐ AVENGERS #270
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #185

- ☐ ETERNALS (Limited Series) #11
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #322—Featuring both the East and West Coast Avengers!
- ☐ X-MEN #208
- ☐ MARVEL SAGA #9—Showcasing the origins of the Watcher, Doctor Octopus, the Kree-Skrull War, and lots more!
- ☐ G.I. JOE #50—Celebrate with this double-sized anniversary issue!
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #190
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #293
- ☐ IRON MAN #209
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #117—Uh oh, Spidey's not here, either! What happened?
- ☐ THOR #370—Introducing... Justice Peace!
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #19—Omega Supreme is here!
- ☐ X-FACTOR #7—Welcome new writer Louise Simonson!
- ☐ DOCTOR WHO #23

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ MARVEL AGE #41—Special Stan Lee issue!
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #126

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ MOONSHADOW (Limited Series) #6

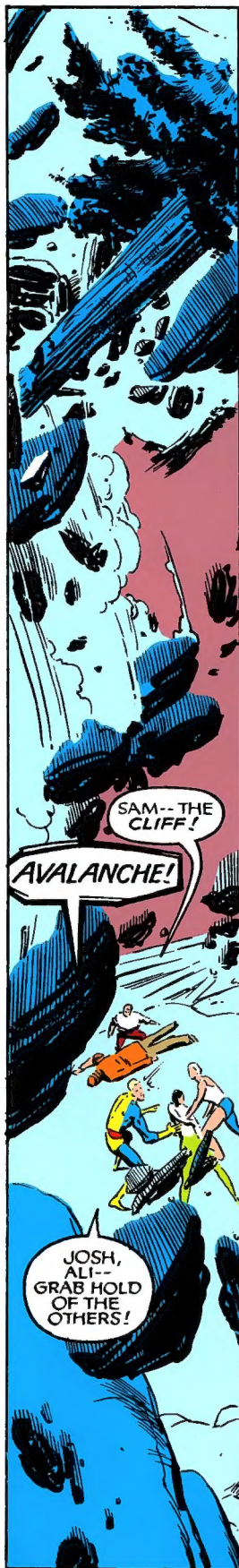
- ☐ GROOTHEWANDERER #18—Groot meets... *Grooella*?
- ☐ DREADSTAR #25—On trial!
- ☐ ELFOQUEST #13
- ☐ ALIEN LEGION #14—Beware the Hunter!

STAR COMICS

- ☐ MISTY (Limited Series) #5—With "Video Wars" and two more stories!
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #9
- ☐ THUNDERCATS #5—To rescue the ghost of Jagal!
- ☐ HEATHCLIFF #9—Caught in the middle of a wild mountain feud!
- ☐ DROIDS #3—Trapped with a dangerous space pirate!
- ☐ TOP DOG #9—Guest starring Heathcliff!

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ HOOKY—We couldn't hold it back any longer; it demanded to be released! And when you look inside, you'll see why human hands couldn't stop it! That's right, it's that monstrous Spider-Man adventure you've had nightmares about, and now it's coming for you! The screams are on SUSAN K. PUTNEY (writer) and BERNI WRIGHTSON (artist)! Don't say we didn't warn you!



SAM-- THE CLIFF!

AVALANCHE!

JOSH, ALI-- GRAB HOLD OF THE OTHERS!



Whew--- THAT WAS CLOSE!

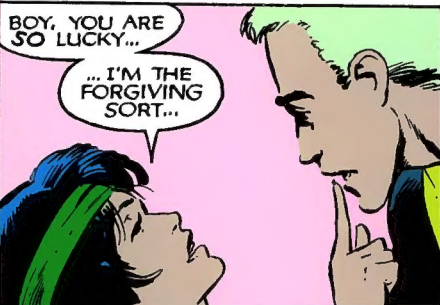
WHAT GIVES?! AH'VE HANDLED HEAVIER LOADS THAN THIS-- BUT AH ALMOST DIDN'T GET OFF THE GROUND. BETTER CHECK THIS OUT, SOON AS AH CAN.



LILA?! OH, LILA-HONEY, AH'M SO SORRY! AH SHOULD'A KNOWN YOU BETTER.

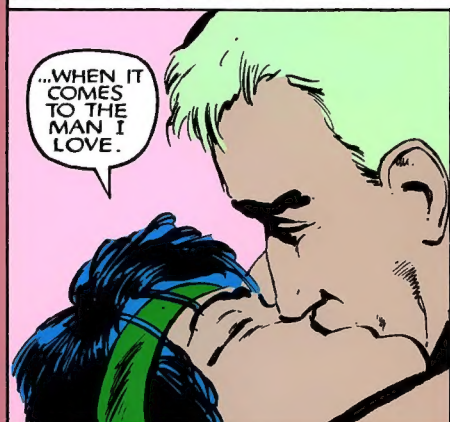
BIGGEST JERK WHO EVER LIVED, THAT'S ME.

--AN' AH'LL... UNDERSTAND... IF YOU HATE ME FOREVER. AH ALREADY HATE MYSELF.

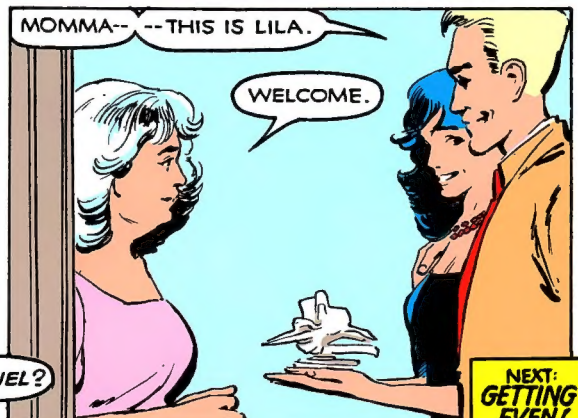
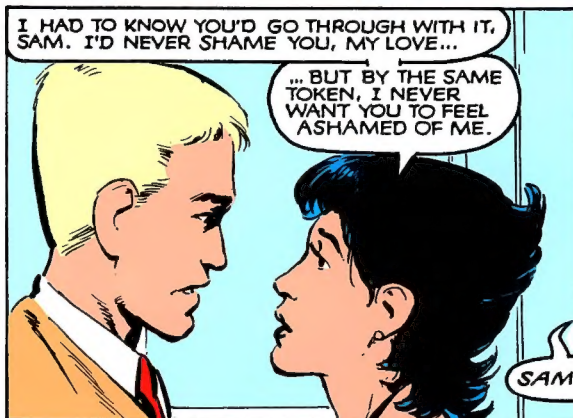
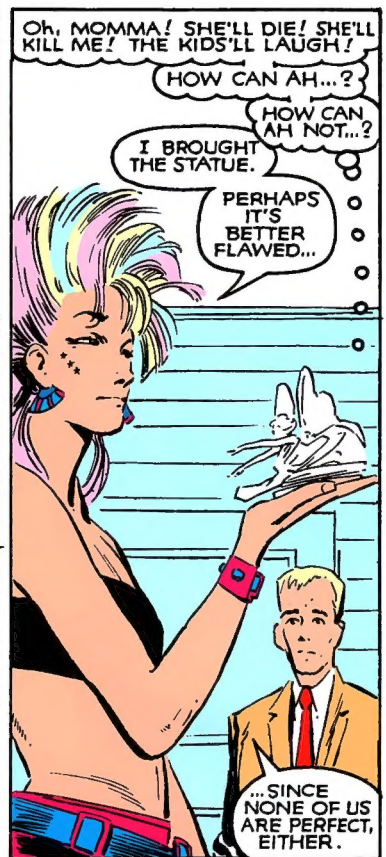
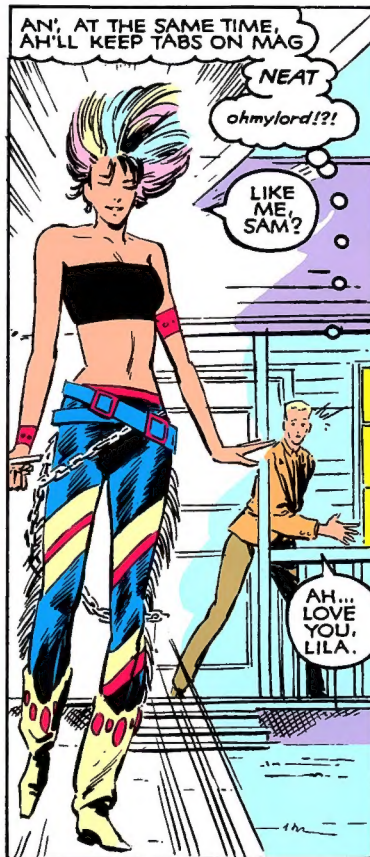
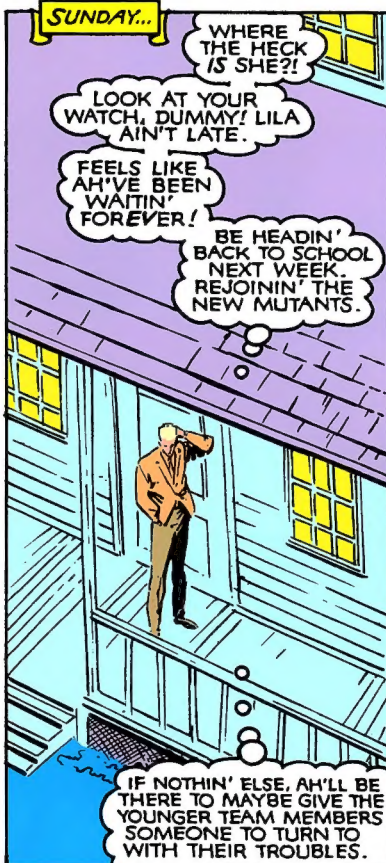


BOY, YOU ARE SO LUCKY...

... I'M THE FORGIVING SORT...



...WHEN IT COMES TO THE MAN I LOVE.



REPORT CARD

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
TERRY KAVANAGH
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Ann, Peter, Chris, Bill, et al:

What does a nightmare look like? Sometimes I wish I could reproduce my dreams so those around me could experience them. Mr. Sienkiewicz has done that very thing in **NEW MUTANTS #27**. The landscape on pages 11 & 12 was positively bone-chilling. The mix of the forboding sky and Paris/Beirut architecture was very effective. Of course, the dome at the center dominates the picture, and by its blackness promotes the most mystery. After what the characters have gone through this issue, it could contain anything.

Another story element adding to the horror was the Arab personality. To have a telepathic terrorist living in one's mind might be the ultimate nightmare. Face it, the Arab doesn't like David, David doesn't like the Arab. To have such a struggle being waged in his mind, it's no wonder that David is autistic.

I just wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for another great issue. Please keep it up.

Jim Moat
8130 66th Ave. N.
New Hope, MN 55428

To the writer and editors of the **NEW MUTANTS**:

I read with increasing horror and revulsion, the series in the **NEW MUTANTS** (#s 26 & 27) on David. Due to your influence upon many young readers, your blatant Anti-Arab racism has not only the effect of propagating myths about the Arab peoples, but also serves to reduce an intensely confusing political situation down to the most inane and banal emotional terms.

Your not-so-subtle symbolism of David representing Israel, complete with a barbaric, terrorist "invader" and the cutesy John Wayne character (which is so appealing to Americans), is not only an incorrect characterization of the Palestinian people and their movement, the PLO, but a warped and propagandistic understanding of the "Arab-Israeli conflict." Additionally, that David is the son of a concentration camp survivor, further lends credence to Israeli and Zionist propaganda, justifying the occupation and subjugation of Palestine, due to the atrocities of the Nazi horror propagated against the peoples of Europe. Need I remind you that not only Jews were the targets of the Nazi "final solution"—there was organized genocide against communists, homosexuals, Slavs, etc. It is ironic that the original inhabitants of the area, the Palestinians, are portrayed to be invaders in your little polemic. The Palestinians, like all people inhabiting religions, belong to many religious denominations—Christian, Moslem and Jewish—who lived in peace with each other for millennia. It is not they who are invaders but the Europeans who stole their land, kill their people and deny them not only their basic human rights but also the fact of their existence. Israeli aggression does not stop there, its expansionist policies (inherent in the ideology of Zionism) have led to the invasion and occupation of all its neighboring countries. The old lie of "self-defense" does not hold up under the evi-

dence of the barbarism inflicted upon the people of Lebanon during the invasion of 1982 and the subsequent occupation of that country.

Additionally, there is even an explicit justification for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in this comic. This is obvious in the fact that scenes of Beirut are interspersed throughout the psychic war in David's mind, with our heroes Charles Xavier, Moira MacTaggart and the New Mutants going in to rescue David (Israel) from the vicious Arab terrorist holding him captive and threatening to destroy him. There can be no justification especially on the cheap emotional level that you approach it, for the invasion of Lebanon by Israel.

It is obscene and pernicious that you have sunk so low, as to try and instill (or further propagate) racism in the young minds of your readers. Given that the media presentation of the "Arab-Israeli conflict" is so rabidly Zionist, that the American people's understanding of the situation is warped to the point of total ignorance, your poisonous and pornographic little polemic is quite unnecessary, if your objective is to propagandize your readers on the subject. If you find it necessary to broach a subject of which you seem to have limited knowledge, you should at least, to portray "equal representation," recognize the rights of the Palestinian people for self-determination, human dignity and justice, which are the rights of all people. Additionally, before the cry of Anti-Semitism appears, I am of Jewish descent and have undergone religious training.

Susan Pashkoff
Committee for Palestine

Chris Claremont replies: In fact, Susan, one of the major themes of this three issue storyline is perception and how easily we can be misled by appearances. You are quite correct in that, as of the second issue, the Jack Wayne/All American Hero character is presented as a good guy, and Jemall Karami, the young Palestinian, the villain. In fact, the reverse is the case. Jack's heroic facade was precisely that, a deception and a lie; to further his own ends, he fed the others' misconceptions and misperceptions and prejudices about Jemall. For example, Gabrielle Haller—being Israeli—automatically views Jemall in the worst possible light. To her, he is the terrorist who murdered a dear friend and would have murdered her son, had David not stopped him first. But Jemall sees himself as a freedom fighter, whose home, Beirut, has been turned into a charnal house by the military forces of Gaby's country. And yet, despite his long-held antagonism—perhaps even hatred—Jemall fought within David's mind to protect David's helpless essential self. His assumption of David's telepathic talent enables him now to perceive the thoughts and motives—the needs and terrors—of those around him. The good in his foes as well as the bad in his friends. In a sense, he's become one who is truly able to perceive every side of a person and situation; he cannot pre-

ceed from false assumptions—from assumptions at all—because he literally knows too much. The point, in the end, is that both Gaby and Jemall are able to put aside their long-held animosities, to work together—and in Jemall's case, make a considerable sacrifice—to save the life, the native consciousness, of an innocent boy, David. Saving a life is better than taking one; peace preferable to war, cooperation and even friendship to antagonism. These may be simplistic bromides to a hellishly confused and agonized reality. But they may also represent a small, halting step in a better direction. Consider the alternative.

NEXT: Guest artist Steve Purcell—aided by inker Whitce Portacio—depicts the reunion of our madcap mutants, as they discover what was done by Empath when he mindshocked two of their teachers (in **New Mutants #38**.) Their first, instinctive reaction is to punch his lights out—give the little creep a well-deserved, long-overdue taste of his own medicine. Unfortunately, the Hellions might have something to say about that. In a month's time—"GETTING EVEN."

Well, gang, last year 3-2-1-**CONTACT** Magazine did a feature article on mutants, real and fictional. They covered everything from blue lobsters to the X-Men and, in return for this much needed pro-mutant propaganda, we're running the results of their "create-a-super-mutant" contest. The winner was chosen by John Romita, Jr. (everyone's favorite professional mutant designer) for his talent and originality in creating new mutants. Who knows—with just a little more practice, we could have a future Marvel artist here!



James Stephenson (age 13)
4 Dyson St.
Staten Island, N.Y. 10304

MINUTEMEN

